Early White Southern Response to Reconstruction

By the end of the Civil War, many people in the North had their own ideas about what should happen to the South. President Lincoln had his own plan (10% Plan) that could no longer be put in place after his assassination. His successor, Andrew Johnson, a Democrat from Tennessee, had his own ideas, which were even more lenient than Lincoln’s, but he constantly ran into trouble with the Radical Republicans. The Radical Republicans had their own ideas, which included bringing about the social and political equality of the former slaves in the South, and they had the power of Congress to go along with them.

After looking at the pictures of some of what the South looked like after Sherman marched through, if you were a Southerner in 1866, how would you react to what you just saw? Write a paragraph that explains your reaction.

There were essentially two ways that Southerners could work to take control back in the South. What methods do you think they tried?

Illegal Efforts

Legal Efforts

Of the two strategies that we just went over, which do you think would be more effective in an effort to keeps whites in control of the South? Why?